

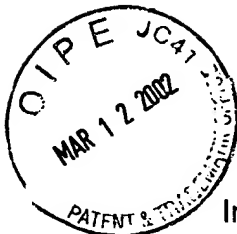
1732

ATTORNEY DOCKET: 40526.04501
PATENT

Sub-Spec

#11/Pro-B
A.L.H.

3-21-02



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent application of
Stephen B. Maguire

Group Art Unit: 1732

Serial No.: 09/883,837

Examiner: TBA

Filed: June 18, 2001

For: LOW PRESSURE DRYER

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice,
as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the second and third paragraphs with the following:

-- Plastic resins are initially granular materials and are produced in pellets.
These pellets are processed into finished or semi-finished products by molding,
extrusion or other means in which the granular resin pellets are heated until the
pellets melt and may then be molded or extruded into a desired shape. Typically
granular resins melt at elevated temperatures, for example from 300-400°F,
which is well above the boiling point of water.

Many granular resins have affinity for moisture. These hygroscopic resins
absorb moisture and cannot be properly processed by molding or extrusion until